

TESTIMONY
FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
REGARDING:

Revised Hospice Facility Regulations

Thursday, March 15, 2012

Dr. Mullen and Members of the Department of Public Health. I am **Ann Burriesci**. My husband, Nicky, was diagnosed with cancer of the liver in December 2005. At the first doctor's visit we were told that he had approximately three months to live.

I quit my job to take care of him and we tried every possible treatment available. There was no cure to be found.

And so it began. There is no way, no words to explain how difficult it is to care for and watch a spouse, a father and grandfather grow weaker and more ill with each passing day. The fear that you must face when everyone has gone home and you are alone and terrified that you won't be able to face the night and you pray for courage to get you both through to morning.

He lived one full year. When there were no more options, Regional Hospice and Home Care of Western Connecticut walked into our lives, bringing comfort and care to all of us as a family unit. Angels had arrived.

If there had been an in-patient hospice facility near by, perhaps in those final agonizing weeks I may have been able to continue working and still be able to be with him through the night.

Having him in a safe home-like environment where loving, caring skilled nurses, social workers, hospice aides and spiritual support along with the family coming together as a team to ensure that he was getting the best possible care and comfort—what a gift that would have been.

Would Branford have been an option? It would not have been realistic—I would not have been able to work and visit simply because of the distance.

He would not have been surrounded by his loved ones in those final hours on New Year's Eve 2006 when his journey ended.

My hope would be that other families in similar situations would have in the near future the options of an inpatient hospice facility near by in Western Connecticut. An option we did not have.

*Sincerely,
Ann Burriesci*